

COLUMBIA.

Friday Morning, November 3, 1865.

Our New Laws.

The "Report of the Committee on the Code," as we said yesterday, was before us. We gave the captions of the various bills proposed, and now proceed, in accordance with our enunciation, to give to our readers the most prominent features of the legislation recommended.

The preliminary bill, induced by the emancipation of slaves, requires no comment. One of its provisions is as follows:

All free negroes, mulattoes and mestizos, all freedmen and free women, and all descendants, through either sex, of any of these persons, shall be known as persons of color, except that every such descendant who may have of Caucasian blood seven-eighths or more, shall be deemed a white person.

Another section provides, as follows:

The statutes and regulations concerning slaves, are now inapplicable to persons of color; and although such persons are not entitled to social or political equality with white persons, they shall have the right to acquire, own and dispose of property; to make contracts; to enjoy the fruits of their labor; to sue and be sued; and to receive protection under the law in their persons and property.

The relations between husband and wife are amply provided for, making recognition of the parties sufficient evidence.

With regard to the apprenticing of the children of freedmen, the following sections are recommended:

A child of colored parents, or of parents of whom one shall be a person of color, over the age of two years, may be bound by the father, if he be living in the District, or in case of his death or absence from the District, by the mother, as an apprentice to any respectable white or colored person, who is competent to make a contract—a male, until he shall attain the age of twenty-one years, and a female until she shall attain the age of eighteen years.

Illegitimate children, within the ages above specified, may be bound by the mother.

Colored children between the ages mentioned, who have neither father nor mother, living in the District in which they are found, or whose parents are paupers, or unable to afford to them a comfortable maintenance, or whose parents are not teaching them habits of industry and honesty, or are persons of notoriously bad character, or are vagrants, or have been convicted of infamous offences, and colored children in all cases where they are in danger of moral contamination, may be bound as apprentices by the District Judge, or one of the Magistrates, for the aforesaid term.

Males of the age of twelve years and females of the age of ten years shall sign the indenture of apprenticeship, and be bound thereby.

When the apprentice is under these ages, and in all cases of compulsory apprenticeship where the infant refuses assent, his signature shall not be necessary to the validity of the apprenticeship, and the master's obligation of apprenticeship shall be executed in the presence of the District Judge, or one of the Magistrates, certified by him, and filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court.

The indenture of voluntary apprenticeship shall be under seal, and signed by the master, the parent and the apprentice, and attested by two credible witnesses, and approved by the District Judge, or one of the Magistrates.

And now comes the most important provisions to the great majority of our readers, viz: the contracts for service. We annex the most important provisions:

All persons of color, who make contracts for service, or labor in husbandry, shall be known as servants, and those with whom they contract, shall be known as masters.

Contracts between master and servants for more than one week, shall be in writing, and attested by one white witness, and shall be approved by the Judge of the District Court, or by one of the Magistrates.

The period of service shall be expressed in the contract; but if it be not expressed, it shall be until the twenty-fifth day of December of the year in which it is made.

If the rate of wages be not stipulated by the parties to the contract, it shall be fixed by the District Judge, or a Magistrate, on application by one of the parties, on notice to the other.

A person of color who has no parent living in the District, and is ten years of age, and is not an apprentice, may make a valid contract for one year's labor or service.

Contracts between masters and servants may be set aside for fraud or unfairness, notwithstanding they have been approved.

Contracts between masters and servants shall be presented for approval within twenty days after their execution.

Contracts shall not be binding on the servant, unless they are in writing, and have been presented for approval within the time aforesaid.

For any neglect of the duty to make a contract as herein directed, or the evasion of that duty by the employment of persons of color, from day to day, on his premises, the party offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be liable, on conviction, to pay a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and not less than five dollars, for each person so employed.

For the approval of a contract, the following fees shall be paid down to the District Judge or the Magistrate, as the case may be.

For a contract of one month or less, for each servant, \$90.50 cents.

For a contract not exceeding three months and more than one month, for each servant, \$1.00.

For a contract not exceeding six months and more than three months, for each servant, \$2.00.

For a contract of one year or any time more than six months, for each servant, \$3.00.

For a contract of more than one year, for each year or part of a year over one year, for each servant, \$3.00.

Three-fourths of which fees shall be paid by the master and one-fourth by the servant.

The above are some of the measures proposed by the Committee. Besides these, there are of course a number of other points which require notice. We will continue our extracts and annotations.

The Suez Canal—Its Commercial and Political Insignificance.

The famous Suez Canal has, at last, been completed, and the magnificent conception of uniting the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean has been realized. Europe has long sought to shorten the route to the East, and it now seems that the dream of centuries has become a fact. The practicability of this scheme has been debated and denied; the nature of the great flats stretching out on the Northern boundary of the Isthmus, is said to be such that no permanent connection can be kept open, and the ultimate failure of the vast experiment is already predicted by the English press.

We have no other reason to doubt the sincerity of the disclaimers of hostility towards the enterprise which are connected with this expression of opinion; but we remember very distinctly (says the *Petersburg Index*) that when the work was begun, the British Government at once possessed itself of the stand of Perim, so that when the door was opened to the commerce of the East, by France, the British Lion should hold the key under his royal hand. This was the universal construction put upon the action of England at that time, and, indeed, is admitted of no other conclusion, for the barren and desolate cliffs over which she hoisted the Cross of St. George were absolutely worthless under every other hypothesis. It would thus be seen that the Government entertained a different opinion of the practicability of the scheme from that now announced by the press. Certainly M. Lesseps is of a very different mode of thinking, and it is to be hoped in the interest of mankind at large that his views are not ill-founded.

The splendid fables of the Arabian Nights fall short, in their pictures, of the results which will accrue from its success; and it cannot be doubted that every resource of skill and science—every appliance of wealth and ingenuity—will be exhausted to keep open this communication. "New" to us, although we remember that Necho, the Egyptian, constructed a canal connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, which, notwithstanding the popular belief in its failure—a belief which the London *Morning Post* seems to entertain—was undoubtedly "open for large vessels" in the reign of Darius. It is impossible for the most ardent fancy and the most solid understanding, to conjecture all the results which will flow from the success of the enterprise, but it is certain that the "centuries looking down" from the Pyramids, will behold a greater glory for the nephew than ever, even in the flush of his victories, perched on the eagles of his uncle, and France will gain no ascendancy greater than she knew under Louis XVI, or the great Corsican.

Apart from the general interest which attaches to so stupendous an undertaking, the inquiry suggests itself, what influence, if any, the success of the Suez Canal is likely to exercise on the Emperor's cis-Atlantic policy? Will the power and wealth thus acquired inspire a new determination to cling to his Mexican protectorate? Will the "overland route" still present charms to the imperial fancy? Will his colonization policy be confirmed? In view of these suggestive questions, the commercial importance of the enterprise—vast as it is—becomes insignificant. He is undoubtedly the most inscrutable man of his times—mysterious as the Sphinx of that mysterious land upon whose shores the skill of his engineers has reproduced the dream of the old Egyptians; but it requires little sagacity to foresee that, with the increase of wealth and power, his well-considered schemes of cis-Atlantic policy are not likely to be reversed. Two such additions at once to the material prosperity and material glory of France, as the East India connection and the Mexican protectorate—the one a mighty impulse to commerce, the other a great and attractive field for colonization—cannot fail to go very far towards establishing that dynasty which it is his highest ambition to seat firmly upon the French throne. In this view of the case, the announcement of the completion of the Suez Canal expands itself into proportions which go beyond the halls of the Stock Exchange and the narrow limits of counting-houses, to engross the attention of cabinets and evoke the wisdom of American statesmen. Even the radicals must see in it a potent argument in favor of a reconstruction of the South on an equitable basis.

MAYOR'S ELECTION IN CHARLESTON.—The telegraphic wires to Charleston have been down for a day or two, and the Charleston papers, of course, failed to come to hand, but we learn from passengers that Col. P. C. Gaillard has been elected Mayor of Charleston by about 200 majority.

Legislature South Carolina.

Wednesday, November 1, 1865.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 m., and the Clerk read the journal of the proceedings of yesterday.

Hon. Benjamin W. Lawton, Senator elect from Barnwell, appeared at the Clerk's desk, presented his credentials, the oath was administered, and he was added to the Committee on Lunatic Asylum and Medical Accounts, and also to the Committee on Agriculture and Internal Improvements.

Mr. Buist introduced a bill to amend and renew the charter of the Calhoun Insurance Company of Charleston; which received the first reading, and was referred to the Committee on Incorporations and Engrossed Acts.

Mr. Dozier offered the following resolution: which was agreed to, and was ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence:

Resolved, That in the opinion of the General Assembly, grave matters involving the future welfare of the State require that this session shall continue.

Ballots were held for Senator and Chief Justice. The President declared the Hon. John L. Manning duly elected Senator, in the Congress of the United States, of the third class, for the term ending March 5, 1867; and Hon. B. F. Dunkin, duly elected Chief Justice of the State of South Carolina.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Clerk called the roll, the Speaker took the Chair, and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Rude.

Mr. R. S. Duryea was added to the Committee on Claims and Commerce and Manufactures. Mr. Black to the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Rawlinson to the Committee on Colored Population. Mr. Sparkman to the Committee on Education. Mr. Lord to the Committee on the Judiciary. Mr. Hough to the Committee on Engrossed Acts and Incorporations.

Mr. Gayer presented the petition of citizens of Charleston for incorporation of the Young America Fire Engine Company, attached to the Fire Department of the city of Charleston. Also, petition of A. Hilton, Jos. A. Morgan and others, for incorporation of the Charleston Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, attached to the Fire Department of the city of Charleston; which were severally referred to the Committee on Incorporations.

Mr. Wagener introduced a resolution, proposing to adjourn on Friday next; which was ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Mr. Mullins introduced a resolution of inquiry as to whether the offices of Treasurer of the Upper and Lower Divisions have been abolished by the provisions of the new Constitution, providing for a single Treasurer for the entire State.

Mr. Norton introduced a bill to require sheriffs, when requested to do so, to put purchasers of real estate at their sales, in possession within one month, when the party as whose property it is sold, or his tenant is possessed; which was read the first time, and was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Cannon introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means to recommend to the House some plan by which the various tax collectors of the State may return the amount of taxes received by them in Confederate money and yet in their possession, or in what way the same shall be disposed of so as to relieve said collectors from future liability on that account.

Mr. Barker introduced a bill to repeal the usury laws of this State.

Adjourned.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—We regret exceedingly to have to chronicle the following, which we clip from the New York *World*, of Monday last:

"At about 8 o'clock, on Saturday evening, a fire broke out in the wholesale and retail grocery store of T. R. Agnew, No. 260 Greenwich street, caused by a light being carelessly thrown among a quantity of waste paper. Before the fire was extinguished, the stock of Mr. Agnew was damaged to the amount of \$10,000; insured for \$90,000. The building was damaged to the extent of \$5,000; insured for \$10,000."

THE GARRISON OF WASHINGTON.—The garrison of Washington is at present composed of seven regiments of the Veteran Reserve Corps—the 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 18th and 24th; the 3d and 10th Regiments of United States Infantry, the 195th and 214th Pennsylvania Regiments, and the 194th Ohio Volunteers—numbering in the aggregate about 4,000 men. The 5th United States Cavalry is on duty at Gen. Grant's headquarters. The duty required of these troops is light, it being no more than patrolling Long Bridge and doing guard duty at the White House and the various stock houses where surplus Government property is kept. As this property is fast being disposed of at auction and private sale, the garrison will ere long be reduced to merely an ornamental body of troops.

MYSTERIOUS CAVE UNDER THE CITY OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.—Parties have for several days past been exploring the subterranean passages under this city. Mr. A. Stewart descended one hundred and twenty-five feet from a cavern under Church street into a chasm below, and was drawn up almost suffocated by foul air. Several relics were discovered, including fossils, bones, buttons, and stones resembling agate and marble. The grand chamber of the cave is forty feet high, thirty feet wide, and eighty feet long. Further explorations are to be made.

A TRUE UNION MAN.—The Raleigh *Standard*, Governor Holden's paper, defines "a true Union man" to be one who cordially and thoroughly endorses the reconstruction policy of Andrew Johnson, provided he show his faith by his works.

This definition is a not inapt one. And, being pretty true, it follows that the Radical Abolitionists of the North, who are just commencing a bitter warfare upon the President's reconstruction policy, are not "true Union men," but disorganizers and disunionists; and, as such, should be considered the enemies of the country and treated accordingly.

Latest News Items.

Commissioner Orton, the accomplished Chief of the Internal Revenue Bureau at Washington, resigned his position last Wednesday, to enter upon the discharge of the duties of President of the United States Telegraph Company, to which position he was recently elected. His successor as Commissioner of Internal Revenue, it is now announced, will be Hon. E. A. Rollins, the able and indefatigable Assistant Commissioner. Mr. Rollins has been connected with the Bureau from its organization early in 1863, first as cashier, and since the election of the former Assistant Commissioner, Hon. E. D. McPherson, to the position of Clerk of the National House of Representatives, as successor of Mr. McPherson.

A Georgia journal says that many of the leading Methodist clergymen of that State, in consequence of their hostility to their Northern brethren, have made overtures to the Episcopalians for a union with them.

The United States naval steamer *Serrano* sailed from Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, on the seventeenth of September, in search of the rebel pirate steamer *Shenandoah*. A list of ninety-five American whalers is published by a Honolulu paper, thirty-three of which had been burned or boarded by the pirate, and the remaining sixty-two of which had not been heard from.

Buenos Ayres newspapers of the twentieth of September have reached us by way of Europe. They contain little additional, however, in regard to the war between Paraguay and the allies. We are told that the Paraguayans have respected property by our national flag. The line of steamers between New York and Rio Janeiro, in addition to the subsidies granted by the United States and Brazil, has been voted twenty thousand dollars per annum by the Argentine Congress, on condition that the trips of the vessels be extended to Buenos Ayres.

A despatch from Morehead City, North Carolina, says that the purser of the steamship *Eagle*, from Havana, states that the negro insurrection in Jamaica, heretofore reported, had assumed serious proportions, and that at the solicitation of the British Consul four Spanish war vessels had been despatched to assist in suppressing it.

In Louisiana the Provost Marshal's Courts organized by the Freedmen's Bureau have been abolished by General Fullerton, and all cases relating to the freedmen are turned over to the State courts, the officers of the bureau, however, being instructed to see that the negroes receive justice. The Confederate ex-Governor Allen, now a voluntary exile in Mexico, who was nominated by his admirers for re-election as Governor of Louisiana, has, it is said, declined the honor, expressing his intention of remaining in the dominions of Maximilian.

The *Herald's* correspondence from St. Thomas, West Indies, communicates the fact that the Haytian rebellion has at last collapsed. This news was brought to St. Thomas by the United States gun-boat *Kansas*, Lieutenant Wells commanding, who, in conjunction with the United States Consul Folsom, seems to have taken an important part in bringing matters to a crisis. For some months past the insurgents, under Salnave, have been besieged in the town of Cape Haytien, and at the date of last accounts previously received were reduced to such a condition of starvation that flour sold for twelve hundred dollars a barrel, and bread for four dollars a loaf. Consul Folsom came near falling a victim to their lawlessness. Coal belonging to the American Government was seized, and in other respects the American flag was violated. This led to prompt action on the part of the Consul and Lieut. Wells, and a hint about resorting to extreme measures brought the rebellion to the ground. On the 2d inst., when the *Kansas* left Cape Haytien, it was agreed to surrender the town to President Geffard and the legally constituted authorities of the republic. The captain of the British gun-boat *Fawa* acted in concert with Consul Folsom and Lieutenant Wells throughout this affair.

Official orders have been issued for a further reduction of our national army, by the disbandment of fifty-four regiments, consisting of organizations of both white and colored troops, in addition to those heretofore announced. Besides this, it is expected that in a short time the majority of the Veteran Reserves will be mustered out of service, as department commanders have been instructed by the War Department to ascertain what officers and enlisted men of that corps desire to leave the army, and to immediately grant discharges to all such. It is alleged that as a general thing the privates of this organization desire to be mustered out, while officers, finding themselves in comfortable positions, wish to be retained in the service of the country, and are making strong efforts to accomplish their object. A circular purporting to have been issued to these officers, and calling for contributions of money and a meeting in Philadelphia to further their designs, has been sent to us.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN DRESS.—Now that the fashionables are returned to the city, the Opera House begins to put on a costly look. Opera cloaks are worn at cost almost fabulous prices, while jewelry is so disposed that it would cost a common Nevada silver mine to buy. The milliners and dress makers of the city were seldom, if ever, so busily employed as they are now, and never before on such costly material. For a wedding coming off in the upper part of the city, one establishment only has some sixty odd dresses in charge, which will cost money enough to buy thousands of acres of land in Nebraska, Dakota and Idaho.

[New York Express.]

CURE FOR A BURN.—The best thing for a burn is the following, and every family ought to know it. As soon as possible, after the burn, throw a little green tea in hot water; let it steep. Stir an Indian meal poultice. Spread the tea leaves on the poultice, put on the burn or scald, whatever it may be. If burnt with powder, it will take it out and the skin will be as clear as ever.

"All that's bright must fade," is not applicable to a fine set of teeth brushed with Fragrant Sazodent. Its protective, preservative and beautifying properties will preserve the whiteness, soundness and natural polish of good teeth throughout life. And when unsound, it will arrest decay, and remove from the breath the taint which decomposition generates.

Local Items.

"Cotton Blanks" and permits—indispensable to all persons purchasing or shipping cotton—can be obtained at this office.

CASE.—We wish it distinctly understood that our terms for subscription, advertising and job work are cash. The money must in every case accompany orders, or they will not be attended to. This rule applies to all.

JUST PUBLISHED.—The Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia, originally published in the Columbia *Phoenix*. A pamphlet edition of the above has just been issued and is for sale at this office—price \$1 a copy.

ELECTION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A series of resolutions was adopted by the Legislature, yesterday, providing for the election of four members to the United States Congress. A notice published in another column gives full particulars, to which attention is directed.

DEBOW'S REVIEW.—The publication of this sterling periodical is to be resumed early in January. By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Mr. J. W. Ainger has been appointed agent for this city.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE GUIDE.—We have received from Messrs. Townsend & North a copy of the above highly useful work, being an abstract of the Internal Revenue and Direct or Land Tax Laws of the United States; with Schedules of Taxations, License, Stamp Duties, etc., besides other useful information; compiled by C. J. Elford, Esq.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning:

Olney & Co.—Lime, Cement, &c.
Jacob Levin—Hams, Pickled Beef, &c.
Hanahan & Wray—Umbrellas.

Apply at this Office—Key Lost.
West Made Academy—Rooms to Rent.
Nomination of W. J. Laval for Treasurer.
Philip Epstein—Dry Goods.
W. B. Stanley—Cheap Light.

China, Glassware, &c.
J. W. Ainger—Agency DeBow's Review.
Campbell & Milling—Groceries, &c.
James G. Gibbs—Auction Sales.
Election for Members of Congress.

HEADQUARTERS COM. BUREAU DISTRICTS, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS, IN THE FIELD, CHARLESTON, S. C.
October 26, 1865.

To all Officers and Agents of the Bureau in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

GENTLEMEN: It is with a desire to restore confidence, which has been somewhat impaired, in many Districts, between the property-holders and negro laborers, that I send you this communication.

The Commissioner deprecates the use of any offensive expressions in the letters and reports made and forwarded, and earnestly enjoins a simple statement of facts. Acts of violence, where freedmen are concerned, made known by the courts or otherwise, should always be carefully recorded and reported, whether the guilty parties are white or black; but angry debates and imprudent speeches must be avoided. Any ebullitions of temper and expressions of dislike on the part of the inhabitants towards you, will naturally awaken feelings of resentment. Yet I beseech you, as individuals who have an important trust committed to you, to keep your duty steadily in view, and carefully abstain from recriminations. A true friendliness to the freedmen demands that they be taught to look to the property-holders for employment. The purchase and rental of lands must come from the same source. On the part of the employer, it is equally urgent and for their interest to secure the confidence of their employees. Schools, home-steads, rentals, sales, church privileges, shares in crops, good wages and kind treatment, are inducements that can be offered. Endeavor to convince them of the practicability of these things, where the present circumstances have filled their minds with forebodings of evil, and where old habits make them heartily believe in free labor. Have in mind examples of success, more or less complete. One or two that have worked well for the first two years will aid you. It will be sometime before matters will settle so that there will not be jars, quarrels and some acts of violence; but I do not believe this is the general wish or feeling of the people, whether white or black. Our object is to do simple justice, doing everything we can that will contribute to good order and good government. Respectfully yours,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General and Commissioner.

A letter from the Norfolk navy yard says that in the dry dock is a portion of the frigate Congress, out of which is being removed old guns, tanks, &c., and frequently something much resembling the remains of a human body, is exhumed. Alongside of the wharf are the once Confederate rams Texas, Albemarle and Richmond, all of them formidable iron-clads.

The steamer St. John, of the Albany line, exploded her boiler, in New York, on the 30th. Seven persons were killed. The cause of the explosion is not known.

A locomotive on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, exploded on Monday, instantly killing two persons.

The property of the Bank of Virginia at Danville, Virginia, has been sold for \$14,500.

The *Siecle de Paris* calculates that there are in Europe more than 2,500,000 Catholic Freemasons.

A scientific exchange says that the oyster is a lamellibranchiate mollusc. What a pity.

The Methodist Conference met in Charlotte, N. C., on the 1st inst.